

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 20-34 are pending, with claims 1, 10, 22, and 30 being independent. Claims 5 and 15-19 have been cancelled. New claims 22-34 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4 and 6-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art (in particular, FIGS. 2 and 3 of the present application) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,614,026 to Williams ("Williams") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,410,558 to Izu et al. ("Izu"). Claims 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of Williams and Izu, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,156,151 to Komino et al. (Komino) or U.S. Patent No. 4,808,553 to Yamazaki (Yamazaki).

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of Williams and further in view of Izu, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Izu, Williams, the system of FIG. 3 of the present application, or the system of FIG. 2 of the present application, nor any proper combination thereof, discloses or suggests all of the limitations of at least independent claims 1, 10, 22, and 30, so that these claims, and their respective dependent claims, are allowable for at least this reason.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims 1-4, 6-14, and 20-34 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby requested in the Examiner's next official communication.

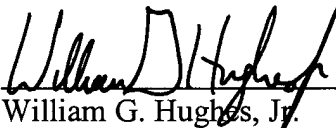
Applicant : Yonezawa, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/820,520  
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Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ 1310.00 for the excess claim fees, Petition for Extension of Time fee and Request for Continued Examination fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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